

July 13, 2012

Weekly Views

The Rockville Correctional Facility recently held its first fundraiser for the ADOPT (Animals Depending On Prison Time) program. RCF staff were able to purchase homemade cheesecakes created by offenders in the Inmate to Workmate and Aramark DOL programs. Aramark Foodservices Director Mike Ritchie donated the ingredients for the cheesecakes. Over \$300 was raised for this new DOC apprenticeship program, which pairs shelter dogs with offender dog handlers for behavior training and socialization in hopes of increasing the chances of adoption.

Jessica Bradley and offenders enrolled in the ADOPT program at Madison Correctional Facility attended the Jefferson County Fair this week and have adopted out 7 dogs and 4 kittens so far. (see photo)



IWP Community Outreach has recently had another offender donate her hair to Locks of Love, which provides wigs to children in chemotherapy. IWP offenders have been doing these acts of kindness for years.

PEN Products Director Mike Herron has been named as the 2013-2014 Treasurer of the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA). Mr. Herron completed a term as Board Member at-Large for NCIA and President of the Central Region of NCIA. The NCIA is an association of correctional industries who share information and ways to improve preparing offenders for a successful reentry by providing meaningful work and on-the-job training while incarcerated.

Superintendent Frances Osburn is proud to announce the promotion of Sergeant Justin Bennett to Correctional Lieutenant/Custody Supervisor at Edinburgh Correctional Facility. Lieutenant Bennett has been employed by the Indiana Department of Correction since June 2010. Before joining the Department, Lieutenant Bennett was on active duty with the US Marine Corps and supported both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Harrison College Criminal Justice students toured the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, supplementing their classroom experience. The group got a first-hand look at life in a maximum-security prison, viewing everything from the PLUS Unit to Industries to Segregation. Harrison College Associate Dean Louis Reeves said it truly benefits them to see the facility in operation, fulfilling its re-entry mission. (photo lower right)

Indiana State Trooper Detective Gardner presented a signed card from the children of the recent "Pioneer Camp" to Branchville Correctional Facility. Branchville donated \$2500 from their recent offender fundraisers to entirely fund the camp. The camp is hosted by the State Troopers to give "at risk" youth a positive summer camp experience.

Amy Bond and Tammy Noland of "Alternatives Incorporated" visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to accept a donation from offenders involved in the security level one housing unit "Inside-Out Dad" program. Alternatives Incorporated provides shelter and other services to victims of domestic violence in Madison, Hancock, Hamilton, Henry, Tipton, and Marion Counties. Ms. Bond and Ms. Noland were presented with ten (10) tote bags made by the Inside-Out Dad offenders using Capri Sun pouches in connection with the group's community service project. The totes were filled with a variety of personal hygiene items that were donated by the facility's PLUS Program. (photo left)



Westville Correctional Facility has been offered a unique opportunity to provide spiritual studies within the Therapeutic Community. The University of Notre Dame is sponsoring Father Jim Bracky to develop and direct a spiritual recovery program to men who have lived a life of addiction. Father Jim, who has been at the university for 32 years, where he served in the field of spiritual education, will lead group studies and offer spiritual guidance to clients of the TC.

Staff from The Changed Life (TCL) visited the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) to tour the facility and speak with specialists and residents about possible employment opportunities and training offered through their organization. TCL is a not-for-profit that provides job skills training and life skills training to ex-offenders in the

Indianapolis area. Their mission is to reduce the recidivism rates of individuals returning to Marion County (Indianapolis) from incarceration through life skills training coupled with transitional jobs programs.

Two facilities, Indiana State Prison and Miami Correctional Facility, participated in blood drives this week. The facilities were able to donate 33 pints each, but Miami is not giving up yet. A challenge was issued to all who could not donate to try to find another local blood drive to donate and add to Miami's total.

